

why is education reform so difficult?

Education Policy and Policymaking

16:833:550

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Monday, 9:50 AM – 12:30 PM

Civic Square, Room 112

This course serves as an introduction to the broad topic of education policy and policymaking in the United States. How each level of government – federal, state, and local – undertakes education policymaking is studied through a framework of the political, social and economic contexts of the school. Questions of equity, efficiency, and excellence in the provision of education are focused on throughout. Specific topic areas include: education policy formation, education reform, school desegregation, school finance, voucher programs, charter schools, and national education goals or standards.

Expectations of Students: Attendance and participation in class discussion is mandatory. You will be given the opportunity to revise the mid-term at your own pace during the semester. The revision process should be viewed as an option for you, not a requirement. If you do decide to submit a revision, your grade will be calculated in the following fashion: $Assignment\ Grade = \frac{2}{3} First\ Draft\ Grade + \frac{1}{3} Final\ Draft\ Grade$. Your final grade is weighted in the following manner: Homework/Participation (10%), Presentation (25), Mid-Term (30), and Research Paper (35).

All readings are required. Articles will be made available to students as the semester progresses. Two books have been ordered from the bookstore. They are the following:

- Ghetto Schooling: A Political Economy of Urban Educational Reform. (1997) Jean Anyon. Teachers College Press: New York.
- Savage Inequalities (1992) Jonathan Kozol. HarperPerennial: New York.

January 26 A (Very) Short Course on Urban Politics

"The Private City and Local Democracy," "Party Machines and Political Entrepreneurs," and "Democracy Versus Efficiency" (1994) in City Politics: Private Power and Public Policy. Dennis Judd and Todd Swanstrom. HarperCollins College Publishers: New York. Pp. 19-104.

February 2 State Policies and Assessment

"The Politics of Education." Salmore and Salmore.

The Role of State Departments of Education in Complex School Reform. (1998) by Susan Follett Lusi. Teachers College Press: New York. Ch. 1-2.

"The New Accountability in State Education Reform: From Process to Performance (1998) By Richard Elmore, Charles Abelman, and Susan H. Fuhrman in The Politics of Accountability: Educative and International Perspectives. Reynold J.S. Macpherson (Ed.) Corwin Press, Inc. Thousand Oaks, CA. Pp. 79-92.

February 9 The Federal Level

"Title I of ESEA: The Politics of Implementing Federal Education Reform" by Jerome Murphy in Odden. Pp. 13-38.

"Learning from Experience: Lessons from Policy Implementation" by Milbrey McLaughlin (1991) in Odden. Pp. 185-195.

"The History of the Title I Compensatory Education Program." Natriello and McDill.

February 16 Social Context

Savage Inequalities. Kozol.

February 23 School Finance I

"Caught in the Middle: The Fate of Rural and Middle-Wealth Districts in the Wake of New Jersey's School Finance Reform." (2000) by Gary Ritter and Sherri Lauver.

TBD

March 1 School Finance II

TBD

March 8 School Desegregation

"Turning Back to Segregation" and "The Growth of Segregation" (1996) in Dismantling Desegregation. Gary Orfield and Susan Eaton. The New Press: New York. Pp. 1-22, 53-71.

"Social Change and Social Dislocations in the Inner City" (1987) in The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy. William Julius Wilson. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago. Pp.20-62.

March 12 - ~~ED~~ Midterm (beginning of class)

March 15 Spring Break :)

March 22 Case Study: Newark, NJ
Ghetto Schooling. Anyon.

March 29 Policy Solutions: Vouchers and Charter Schools

"An Institutional Perspective on Schools" (1990) in Politics, Markets, and America's Schools. John Chubb and Terry Moe. The Brookings Institution: Washington D.C. Pp.26-68.

"Schools and Student Achievement: More Evidenced from the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program" (1998) by Cecilia Elena Rouse. FRBNY Economic Policy Review. Pp. 61-76.

"School Choice in New York City after Two Years: An Evaluation of the School Choice Scholarship Program." (2000) by David Myers, Paul Peterson, Daniel Mayer, Julia Chou and William Howell. MPR Reference NO. 8404-036.

"Voucher Claims of Success Are Premature in New York City." (2000) MPR Press Release.

"Beyond the Rhetoric of Charter School Reform: A Study of Ten California School Districts" (1998) by Amy Stuart Wells.

April 5 Policy Solutions: Early Care and Education

"Early Childhood Education in the Abbott Districts" (1999) by Steve Barnett, Julie Tarr and Ellen Frede. Pp. 1-17.

"Long-Term Effects on Cognitive Development and School Success (1998) by Steve Barnett in Early Care and Education for Children in Poverty. Steve Barnett and Sarane Spence Boocock (Eds.) State University of New York Press: Albany. Pp. 11-44.

"Early-Childhood Programs and Success in School: The Abecedarian Study" (1998) by F.A. Campbell, R. Helms, J.J. Sparling, and C.T. Ramey in Early Care and Education for Children in Poverty. Steve Barnett and Sarane Spence Boocock (Eds.) State University of New York Press: Albany. Pp. 145-166.

April 12 or 19 Policy Solutions: Class Size

"Tennessee's Class Size Study: Findings, Implications, and Misconceptions." (1999) Jeremy Finn and Charles Achilles. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis. Vol. 21, No. 2. Pp. 97-109.

"The Long-Term Effects of Small Classes." Barbara Nye and Larry Hedges. (1999) Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis. Vol. 21, No. 2. Pp. 127-142.

"Conclusion." (1999). David Grissmer. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis. Vol. 21, No. 2. Pp. 231-248.

April 26 Research Presentations /

May 3 Research Presentations

Final Paper due - May 10th at noon